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AUTHOR West, Jean M., Ed.
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ABSTRACT

This unit of study (for grades 5-8) about immigrants to the United States at the turn of the century and into the 20th century contains four elements: (1) a set of reproductions of documents; (2) a list of documents with their specific archival reference numbers and a brief synopsis of their historical significance to the unit's theme; (3) 11 classroom activities; and (4) an issue of "Cobblestone" magazine related to the subject matter of this study. The unit helps students develop knowledge of social studies content and improves their skill at understanding such information by introducing them to primary historical documents. This concrete approach advances students to higher-level thinking and offers experience and practice of the following: collecting, organizing, interpreting, and weighing the significance of factual evidence to achieve a systematic analysis of primary source documents; comparing and contrasting evidence from different sources; identifying factual information and separating it from opinion; identifying points of view and biases; and developing defensible inferences, conclusions, and generalizations from factual evidence. (BT)

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